



Meetings – on the horizon?

We are still unable to gather in large groups, so we will have no formal meeting in April. The board is watching the state and CDC guidelines and will make a decision based on those recommendations, following the rules laid out by International in this regard. We have no way of knowing if we will be able to gather together by Mai 17. But we can each celebrate on our own, regardless. So, plan a celebration picnic, get out your flags and bunader, and cue up some Norwegian music. Check out the Sons of Norway International web site for celebration ideas. Thrill your friends and neighbors by having your own parade. And take pictures/videos that we can share when we CAN get back together.

Zone Zoom, April 17th

The pandemic is actually making it easier for those who might 'sort of' want to attend a Zone Seminar, but aren't so excited that they'd drive to Spokane or Wenatchee. District 2 is offering a Zoom Zone seminar on April 17th from 9 AM to noon. You can attend from the comfort of your own home.

Some of the topics to be covered are Programs for Lodges, Publicity, Cultural Programming, Youth ad Sports, Trollhaugen, Foundation, and Membership recruitment. This is a chance to interact with the District officers and gather ideas for our lodge's benefit.

We encourage all members to attend, especially since there is no travel involved. Please let me know if you are planning to attend, even if it is only a "hmm, that looks sort of interesting, I'll see" sort of feeling right now.

If you didn't get the email with the registration form attached, you can call Nancy and we can get you registered so that you will get the Zoom address.

For the Youth

Since Aug 2020, Sons of Norway International has been offering a quarterly magazine for the youth, titled *Viking for Kids*. The link to the subscriber content is

https://www.sofn.com/member_benefits/viking-for-kids/.

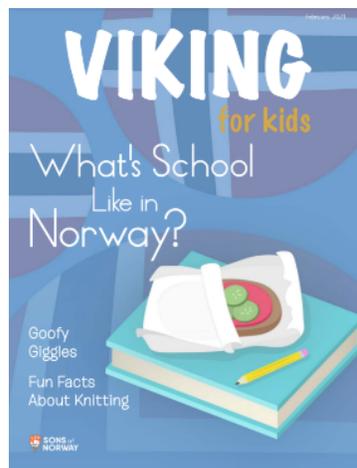
You can read it online or download it. They have activities, language, history, and other ways to learn about Norway.

Before returning to the magazine for youth, Sons offered a "Just for Kids" page every quarter in the Viking magazine. These are also all available online. The link is below.

Each issue had a different theme such as baking, genealogy, myths and legends, the Sámi people etc.

You don't have to be a kid to enjoy and learn from these benefits.

https://www.sofn.com/member_benefits/just_for_kids/.



Sol-Land Lodge holds a monthly meeting on the third Friday of the month. We have a potluck dinner beginning at 6:30pm. Guests are not expected to bring food just to come and enjoy themselves! The cultural program begins about 7:30. We meet at Kennewick First Lutheran Church on the corner of HWY 395 and Yelm. We have a board meeting on the last Monday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm, also at Kennewick First Lutheran. If you wish to come to a meeting, but do not have transportation, please contact us and we will arrange it for you. If you are interested in a membership, give one of us a call; we can tell you what we are all about and how to go about becoming a member. You can also visit our lodge website at www.sol-land.org.



Officers for 2021

President - Greg Holter
Vice President – Darlene Roberson
Secretary - Nancy Holter
Treasurer – Lucinda Twedt
Counselor - Virginia Fields
Social Director - Rennae Rosenberg
Cultural Director - Gretchen Makinson
Assistant Cultural – Ron Rolla, Joe Molvik
Sports Director – Lisa Barthlomew
Foundation Director - Nancy Holter
Publicity Director - Kristie Edwards
Editors - Sara Watson/Nancy Holter
Musician - Linnea Hillesland
Librarian – Maureen Woodward/Gretchen Makinson
Marshall - Brad Horst
Assistant Marshall - Dave Payson
Greeter - Donna Smitt
Assistant Greeter - Ginger Fields/Elaine Shepherd
Sunshine Comm. - Darlene Roberson
Scholarship Chair - Dick Nordness
Tubfrim Chair – Laurie Tyssen

COVID in Norway

We are aware of restrictions the US and Washington state governments have put on us to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. But how is this being handled in Norway? As a general rule, only Norwegian citizens and foreigners residing in Norway can enter Norway. There are some exceptions to this hard and fast rule. Journalists, students, people who live/work in Svalbard and need to pass through to get to and from Svalbard are a few of the exemptions.

But suppose you can get in, then what? Virtually anyone who travels ‘for leisure’ will have to stay in a quarantine hotel for a period of 10 days, especially if you are coming from an area with a high COVOD case count.

Once you are out of quarantine, the restrictions will be familiar – face masks and social distancing, a ban on serving alcohol, requesting contact tracing information at venues, a limitation on the size of gatherings allowed, etc. But Norway’s rules concerning these have teeth. Failing to wear a mask properly can result in a fine of \$234 and possibly prison for 2 days. Holding a gathering larger than permitted can net you a fine of nearly \$2350, and possibly prison for 15 days. Attending that gathering is easier on the pocketbook- the fine is ‘only’ half, but the possible prison term is still 10 days.

Norway’s COVID-19 infection rates and hospitalizations must decline before the government will begin to unwind restrictions on social interaction, Prime Minister Erna Solberg told parliament. Solberg presented a four-step plan for easing Norway’s restrictions, and said the first three steps could be completed by the end of June unless new setbacks emerge.

<https://www.visitnorway.com/plan-your-trip/coronavirus-and-travelling-to-norway/>

Ski Jumping and Nordic America

Don’t put away your winter gear just yet—on April 17 the Nordic Museum will be delighted to open their newest exhibition Sublime Sights: Ski Jumping and Nordic America! Created in partnership with the Washington State Ski & Snowboard Museum this exhibition shares the thrills and chills of Nordic ski jumping with the northwest was the center of the sport in the US. Photos, stories, memorabilia, and more await you at Sublime Sights! Reserve your admission tickets now:

<https://www.nordicmuseum.org/exhibition/sublimesights>. In late April there are two virtual lectures about skiing and its history in the PNW. You can read about them on the website.



★ NORWAY ★



A Message from International President Ron Stubbings...

Who would have predicted a year ago the impact of COVID-19 on our lives? It has been unimaginable! While it has been a challenging 12 months, you, your fellow members and lodge leaders have responded in so many positive ways. **Our fraternal spirit is going strong.**

As we wait for in-person meeting restrictions to ease, I hope you take heart from knowing that even in 2020, new members still flocked to join Sons of Norway. **You helped Sons of Norway exceed the new member goal by an impressive 24%—reaching a total of 7,815 new members!**

Though the pandemic may put restrictions on gathering at times, you can still invite friends and family to join and enjoy the exclusive benefits of Sons of Norway membership.

Please continue to spread the good word about membership as we move forward in 2021. Take a minute to chat with family members about Sons of Norway. Offer a friendly invitation to take part in a fun activity or event, even if it is virtual for now. You never know what a difference your invitation will make for that person.

Thank you for continuing to help our Sons of Norway family grow. Please talk to others about what you enjoy about your membership and what membership offers them. That might be learning a new folk art through our cultural skills program, reconnecting with their heritage through *Viking* magazine or researching genealogy and family history—a passion for so many of our members.

If we each invite at least one friend, neighbor or family member to an upcoming meeting or event, we will reach the 2021 goal well before the end of 2021. That's how we can share our caring, welcoming communities and build a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being a Sons of Norway member!

Sincerely,

Ron Stubbings
Proud Sons of Norway Member Since 1976
International President



Sol-Land's goal for 2021 is to recruit eight (8) new members. Lodges that meet the recruitment goal will be recognized with a \$125 award to use as it prefers. Members who sign up new members will receive the new recruitment pin in the mail directly from International.



Norwegian Conversation Group

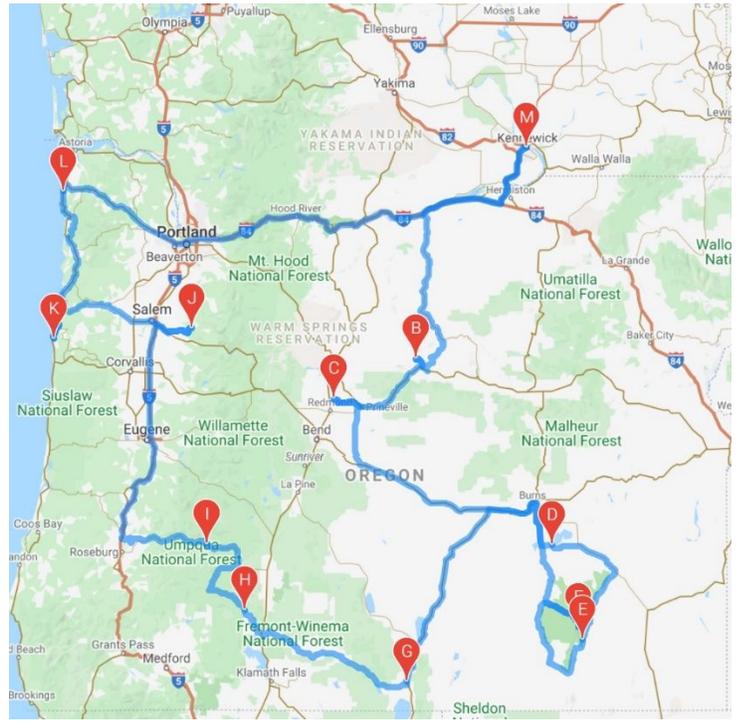
The Norwegian conversation group has been meeting outdoors on Wed. afternoons when the weather is nice or Wed. evenings on zoom at 7 p.m. Please contact Gretchen Makinson (509-943-1264, glmakinson@aol.com) or Lisa Barthlomew (509-943-7690, jbarth8924@aol.com) for more information.

Visit Iceland's Ring Road in Oregon

Not everyone can afford to get to Iceland to travel the Ring Road, and until COVID-19 restrictions ease up, no one can go anyway, but you can enjoy similar sights and sounds in Oregon. Thanks to the work of *Portland Monthly*, we have a list of places to enjoy painted landscapes, geysers, ocean shores, waterfalls, lakes, and open horizons similar to what you would enjoy if you were to travel the Ring Road.

The article lists the Icelandic sites, their attributes, and the Oregon cousins to whet your appetite. So start your planning now so when it is safe for us to travel, you are ready for this magnificent trip.

<https://www.pdxmonthly.com/travel-and-outdoors/2021/03/don-t-have-the-kronar-for-an-icelandic-adventure-create-your-own-ring-road-trip-in-oregon?>



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